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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/645
3 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

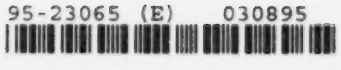
LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the attached report, which was addressed to me on 2 August 1995 by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, concerning the operations of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). This report by the Co-Chairmen contains the certification referred to in Security Council resolution 1003 (1995).

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

95-23065 (E) 030895 040895



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Annex

Operations of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY) Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of Security Council resolutions 988 (1995) of 21 April 1995 and 1003 (1995) of 5 July 1995. In resolution 988 (1995), the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General submit every 30 days, for its review, a report from the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia on the border closure measures taken by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

2. It will be recalled that, on 4 August 1994, the following measures were ordered by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), to come into effect the same day:

(a) "To break off political and economic relations with the 'Republika Srpska';

(b) "To prohibit the stay of the members of the leadership of the 'Republika Srpska' (Parliament, Presidency and Government) in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

(c) "As of today the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is closed for all transport towards the 'Republika Srpska', except food, clothing and medicine."

3. On 19 September, 3 October, 2 November and 5 December 1994, 5 January, 3 February, 2 March, 31 March, 13 April, 18 May and 25 June 1995, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council reports from the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee on the state of implementation of the above-mentioned measures (S/1994/1074; S/1994/1124; S/1994/1246; S/1994/1372; S/1995/6; S/1995/104; S/1995/175; S/1995/255; S/1995/302; S/1995/406 and S/1995/510). The report dated 25 June 1995 contained the following certification from the Co-Chairmen:

"In the light of the foregoing developments during the reporting period, based on the Mission's on-site observation, on the advice of the Mission coordinator, Mr. T. J. Nieminen, and in the absence of any contrary information from the air, either from the airborne reconnaissance system of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), or national technical means, the Co-Chairmen conclude that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces. The Co-Chairmen also conclude

that, during the period covered by the present report, there have been no commercial transshipments across the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Developments since the last report are outlined below.

II. LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS ON THE BORDER CLOSURE

4. The decision of the Federal Government to break all economic and political relations with the "Republika Srpska" that was reached in August 1994 was amended on 13 July 1995. According to the amendment to the said decision, besides food, clothing and medicine, the following articles may be sent to the territory of the "Republika Srpska" as humanitarian aid:

Articles for hygiene and disinfectants;

Books, textbooks and other school materials;

Funeral equipment;

Articles for religious services (candles, icon lamps, incense and the like).

5. The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have provided the Mission with the following list of confiscations conducted along its border with Bosnia and Herzegovina for June 1995:

Petrol	-	10.5 tons
Diesel	-	20.3 tons
Motor oil	-	784 litres
Cigarettes	-	1.3 tons
Construction materials	-	23.9 tons
Wood	-	27 cubic metres
Alcohol	-	703 litres
Food	-	6.7 tons
Textiles, clothing, footwear	-	236 kilograms
Animals	-	22
Coffee	-	1.6 tons
Electrical gadgets	-	550 kilograms
Motor vehicles	-	4
Other goods	-	11.4 tons

6. There were 67 new offence procedures initiated during the month and 120 were finalized. Fines and penalties amounted to 285,000 dinars. The volume of confiscations was down to more normal levels following the substantial increase in May. The number of new offence cases was about the average for the previous 10 months, whilst the number of cases finalized and penalties levied were well above the average for the previous monthly periods.

III. ORGANIZATION, FINANCING AND WORK OF THE MISSION

7. As of 30 July 1995, 185 international Mission personnel were on duty with the Mission. The Mission personnel to date have come from the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

8. The present number of monitors assures 24-hour manning of the 19 border crossing points, as well as patrolling the Mission area of responsibility. The conditions of the observers at the crossing points were upgraded considerably by the end of July, when 13 portacabin containers loaned to the Mission by the United Nations were installed at the crossing points.

IV. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF THE MISSION

9. The Mission continues to enjoy full freedom of movement within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

10. Nevertheless, there have been some minor incidents, when on eight different occasions Mission observers have been verbally threatened by local people. One of the incidents happened in the vicinity of Citluk (Sector Alpha) and the rest of them in Sector Charlie: one in Scepan Polje, two in Vracenovici, two in Niksic and two while patrolling in Montenegro. The Mission considers those incidents as personal outbursts, reflecting the present uncertain situation in the former Yugoslavia. The security of personnel is closely monitored by the Mission headquarters and remains a matter of priority concern.

11. Also, on 22 July, a Mission mobile patrol was by the Drina river, 1.5 kilometres south of Badovinci, when from the western side of the river a burst of automatic fire was let off as a possible warning. The patrol withdrew but the incident was assessed as an isolated one (not necessarily directly targeting Mission members) and this area will continue to be monitored.

V. COOPERATION OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) WITH THE MISSION

12. Cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) continues to be good.

VI. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NATIONAL AND OTHER SOURCES

13. The operating principle of the Mission is to base its reporting and evaluations on its own observations and on information that it has verified. The Mission Coordinator has maintained a standing request to Governments possessing the technical capacity to provide it with information relevant to its mandate. He has not received any such information since the last report.

VII. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE AUTHORITIES

14. Unarmed uniformed personnel continue to cross the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the reporting period, 492 such incidents were recorded, 460 at Sremska Raca. Usually the crossings happen in small groups or individually, except on 21 July at Vracenovici, when 30 unarmed soldiers crossed the border in a bus from Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On two occasions, at Scepan Polje, uniformed persons were allowed to cross the border carrying a sidearm.

15. On 24 July, at Sremska Raca three civilians carrying sidearms were allowed to cross the border into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The vehicle registration number indicated that it was from the "Republic of Serb Krajina" ("RSK").

16. The customs officials in Sector Belgrade have been active throughout the reporting period, confiscating many items intended for smuggling, especially at Belgrade port, where substantial quantities of confiscations have been reported by the Mission observers. For example, 1 load with 4 tons of hidden fertilizer and another with 530 bottles of wine and 120 kilograms of chocolate were confiscated. In Novi Sad a load of cement was found hidden under flour in two trucks. In Sremska Raca, 2 trucks were impounded, 1 with a hidden bulkhead tank containing 11.3 tons of fuel and the other with a hidden tank of approximately 14.5 tons of fuel. On two occasions, the customs officials found 10 tons of cement when investigating the cut wire on loaded trucks.

17. On 26 July, at Sremska Raca, one car carrying packages of corn plus other packages crossed the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina unchecked after a conversation with a customs officer, who stated that he did not know what was in the packages.

18. On 26 July, a Mission mobile patrol by the Drina river 4 kilometres north of Trbusnica saw a metal boat full of 200 litre fuel drums moored to the far bank. The number of drums was at least 16. There were five cars, one van and numerous people in the area at the time. On the site is a cable ferry crossing. The pulley cable attached to the main cable had been moved from its old, useless position in midstream to the far bank. This made the ferry operational for the first time in at least two months. Three hundred metres upstream and south of the ferry, a tractor and a trailer were reversed into the river. On the trailer were at least nine 200-litre fuel drums. There was a Yugoslav Army Liaison officer with the patrol, who returned to his barracks to task an army patrol to

cover the area. The Mission mobile patrol returned to the area the next day, on 27 July. A three-man Yugoslav Army patrol was posted there and the patrol leader stated that they had not observed any activity in the area. The fuel drums had also disappeared.

19. At Badovinci and Trbusnica border crossing points (Sector Alpha) the problem of "ant trade" appeared in late June and increased in July. Cement, fertilizer and powder paint were allowed across the border to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, mostly on bicycles. All indications suggested that this was trade-related. The customs authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) complied with the Mission request to put an end to this kind of trade. The bicycle traffic continues to be a slight problem, with beer being now the principal cargo.

20. On 20 July, observers at the Skelani (Bajina Basta) border crossing point reported that a helicopter crossed the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina. On three separate occasions, on 23, 26 and 28 July, the Mission team at the Badovinci (Sector Alpha) crossing point reported a helicopter crossing the border, twice from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and once in the other direction. On 28 July, separate helicopter crossings were sighted at the Mali Zvornik (Sector Alpha) and Vilusi (Sector Charlie) crossing points. The Mission headquarters has requested an explanation of the flights from the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), who have confirmed them as medical evacuation flights. The Mission can neither confirm nor deny that these were medical evacuation flights. The United Nations military observers team in Belgrade has advised the Mission that, because of problems monitoring helicopters on the Bosnia and Herzegovina side, no helicopter flights destined to cross the border either way have been given United Nations approval since 11 July 1995.

21. United Nations airfield monitors working at civilian radar screens at Surcin Airport near Belgrade notified the Mission of two unidentified radar tracks on 29 June, and of one further trace on 8 July. On 13 July the Mission Operations (Air) Officer reviewed the tapes covering all three cases. The tapes had no traces of the tracks reported by the military observers. After the review, the Mission Operations Officer was subjected to harassment at the Federal Air Traffic Control Authority over the wording of a written factual statement of his findings. Also the Federal Air Traffic Control Authority has been unnecessarily obstructive over the Mission reviewing tapes. The Mission is making representations to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) about these matters.

22. Two barriers in the Tara mountains 10 kilometres west of the village of Mitrovac were frequently tampered with. The incidents were reported to the Yugoslav Army Liaison Officer, who ordered the reconstruction of the barricades.

23. In the previous report to the Security Council on 25 June (S/1995/510), the border crossing points at Metaljka and Sula (Sector Bravo) were mentioned as problematic areas because of the possibility of bypassing them. One way of dealing with the problem was to relocate those crossing points so as to prevent usage of the bypass roads. On 6 July, the Mission Coordinator, together with

his Senior Customs Adviser, met the Director General of the Federal Customs Administration and expressed his serious concern about the delay in relocating the two crossing points. Both of them, Metaljka and Sula, were moved to new locations that same afternoon.

24. On 26 June, at Vracenovici (Sector Charlie), a car with 14 bags of wool was allowed to cross into Bosnian Serb territory without a proper check.

25. On 17 July, at Nudo (Sector Charlie), the customs authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) allowed a van to cross into Bosnian Serb-held territory without it being checked. The observers noted that the van was fully loaded with crates of fruit, vegetables and meat.

VIII. CERTIFICATION

26. In the light of the foregoing developments, based on the Mission's on-site observation, on the advice of the Mission Coordinator, Mr. T. J. Nieminen, and in the absence of any contrary information from the air, either from the airborne reconnaissance system of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or national technical means, the Co-Chairmen conclude that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces. The Co-Chairmen also conclude that, during the period covered by the present report, there have been no commercial transshipments across the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

27. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 988 (1995) and 1003 (1995), the next report will be provided by 8 September 1995, before the expiration of the 75-day period.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/646
4 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991 and all subsequent relevant resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General dated 17 July 1995 (S/1995/588),

Welcoming the briefing by the Secretary-General on 25 July 1995 on his recent visit to Angola,

Reaffirming its commitment to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of Angola,

Reiterating the importance it attaches to the full implementation by the Government of Angola and Uniao Nacional para a Independencia Total de Angola (UNITA) of the "Acordos de Paz" (S/22609, annex), the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex) and relevant Security Council resolutions,

Noting the agreement reached between the Government of Angola and UNITA on the adjusted and accelerated timetable for the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol,

Commending the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative, the three observer States to the Angolan peace process and the personnel of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and to consolidate the cease-fire and the peace process which has entered a new and promising phase,

Noting also that the situation in most of the country is fairly calm, but concerned at the number of cease-fire violations,

Welcoming the meeting in Lusaka on 6 May 1995 between the President of Angola, Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the leader of UNITA, Mr. Jonas Savimbi, which led to the diminishing atmosphere of mistrust and intensification of high-level contacts between the Government of Angola and UNITA,

Recognizing that the progressive deployment of United Nations military and Police Observers and troops has significantly contributed to consolidation of the cease-fire,

Welcoming the commitment of the international community to assist and support the economic, social and reconstruction efforts of Angola and recognizing the importance of such assistance in sustaining a secure and stable environment,

Expressing concern at reports of human rights violations and recognizing the contribution that human rights monitors can make in building confidence in the peace process,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General dated 17 July 1995;

2. Decides to extend the mandate of UNAVEM III until 8 February 1996;

3. Commends the Government of Angola and UNITA for their commitment to the peace process and notes the progress made thus far in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol;

4. Expresses concern at the slow pace in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, in particular troop disengagement, demining and the establishment of quartering areas and expects the Government of Angola and UNITA, in cooperation with UNAVEM III, to finalize arrangements for establishment of quartering areas, complete troops disengagement, and to expedite the conduct of demining;

5. Urges the Government of Angola and UNITA to adhere strictly to the revised timetable on the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and make concerted efforts to accelerate that process;

6. Stresses the importance of the completion of the electoral process, as provided for in the Lusaka Protocol;

7. Calls upon the Government of Angola and UNITA to adopt without further delay a comprehensive and workable programme for the formation of the new armed forces, and accelerate the exchange of prisoners and the repatriation of mercenaries with a view to reinforcing the freedom of movement of people throughout the country;

8. Takes note of the progress noted by the Secretary-General in the establishment of triangular communications between the Angolan parties and UNAVEM III and requests the Government of Angola and UNITA to assign urgently liaison officers to UNAVEM III regional headquarters;

9. Urges the two parties to put an immediate and definitive end to the renewed laying of mines and to reported unauthorized movement of troops;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the deployment of UNAVEM III infantry units and accelerate it as conditions for sustaining and employing troops improve, with the objective of reaching full strength as soon as possible;

11. Urges the Government of Angola and UNITA to provide UNAVEM III with the necessary information and ensure the freedom of movement of UNAVEM III, including full unimpeded access to all military facilities, to enable it effectively to discharge its mandate;

12. Requests that the Secretary-General report on his analysis on the completion of the objectives of the Lusaka Protocol and of the mandate of UNAVEM III, in light of the alterations in the timetable for deployment of UNAVEM III;

13. Stresses the need for dissemination of objective information through radio UNAVEM and for the Government of Angola to provide all facilities for the prompt functioning of the radio;

14. Stresses the importance it attaches to the disarmament of the civilian population, and urges that it begin without further delay;

15. Notes with concern increasing levels of violence perpetrated by unaffiliated groups, and calls on all parties to seek to control and disarm these threats to the peace process;

16. Authorizes the Secretary-General to increase as appropriate the strength of UNAVEM III's human rights unit;

17. Commends Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for their substantial contributions to meet the humanitarian needs of the Angolan people;

18. Demands that the Government of Angola and UNITA take necessary measures to ensure the safe passage of humanitarian supplies throughout the country;

19. Requests the Government of Angola to continue providing substantial contributions to the United Nations peace-keeping operations and call upon UNITA to make every effort to contribute proportionally in order to assist with the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Angola;

20. Endorses the Secretary-General's appeal and encourages donors to respond with generous and timely financial contributions to the humanitarian effort and provision of mine clearance, bridging and road repair equipment and materials and other supplies necessary for setting up the quartering areas;

21. Endorses also the Secretary-General's intention to submit a comprehensive report to the Council every two months;

22. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/647
4 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 4 August 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granić, addressed to you.

I would kindly request your assistance in circulating this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

95-23210 (E) 040895 070895

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Annex

Letter dated 4 August 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that at 5 a.m. Central European time, on Thursday, 4 August 1995, the Croatian military and police forces commenced a decisive operation aimed at restoring the rule of law, constitutional order and public safety in the occupied territories of Croatia, as defined in General Assembly resolution 49/43, as well as to help to sustain the defence of the United Nations-declared safe area of Bihać.

Let me recall that, following the fall of the United Nations-declared safe areas of Žepa and Srebrenica and the joint offensive against Bihać, as well as the repeated clear violations of the international borders of Croatia, my Government, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, on 20 July 1995, warned that, should the Bihać area be gravely threatened and in danger of falling immediately, the vital strategic interests of my country would be jeopardized and Croatia would be compelled to take decisive action in accordance with its international obligations towards Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Croatia has been forced to resort to decisive measures for a number of reasons. Let me emphasize just some of the important ones:

(a) The complete failure of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia-mediated talks in Geneva between the representatives of the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs, during which the offer made in good faith by the Republic of Croatia to begin immediately the process of peaceful reintegration of the occupied territories was adamantly rejected by the Knin rebel authorities;

(b) The continuation of the attacks on the Croatian urban centres from the occupied territories as well as from the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Serbian control, even while the Geneva talks were still in progress, as well as afterwards;

(c) The unrelenting offensive and repeated attacks on the United Nations safe area of Bihać, as well as the public announcement made by the Bosnian Serb leadership, including Radovan Karadžić himself, which left no doubts as to their intention to launch immediately an all-out attack and overrun the defence of the aforementioned United Nations safe area;

(d) The failure to implement the mandate of UNCRO, which has proven totally ineffective, especially regarding the control of the international borders of the Republic of Croatia to prevent the interference and deployment of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the cross-border joint and coordinated attacks of the Bosnian Serbs and Croatian Serb rebel forces against Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(e) The frustration of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the failure of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) to carry out its mandate; with unfulfilled obligations of the international community to prevent an overall attack on and strangulation of the United Nations-declared safe areas; with the overall pattern of taking United Nations personnel as hostages; and the well-known large-scale genocide committed against the civilians in the "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Žepa;

(f) The obligation of my Government to fulfil the commitments under the Split Declaration of 22 July 1995 for the joint defence of the two Governments against the Serbian aggression, and a request of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina for military assistance and help based on previous bilateral agreements for military cooperation and the internationally sponsored Washington agreements, as well as the legitimate right to self-defence of the States Members of the United Nations;

(g) The policy of continued appeasement of the international community towards the Belgrade Government, the sponsor of the occupation of the parts of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

From the very outset five years ago, the Republic of Croatia has spared no effort to seek peaceful reintegration of the occupied territories of Croatia and normalization of the relations between the States in the region. Our agreement to resume talks with the Croatian Serbs' representatives recently in Geneva was an integral part of this policy. But instead of demonstrating readiness to negotiate and accept Croatia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the Constitution and the constitutional law that define the highest standards of the individual and collective rights of the Serb community within Croatia as the basic framework for negotiations, the Serb leadership has engaged in yet another duplicity: attending the talks in Geneva and in the end rejecting the proposals, while at the same time exposing Croatian cities, including the historic city of Dubrovnik, to long-range artillery and mortar fire. On the other hand, while agreeing to the seven-point proposal made by the United States Ambassador, Mr. Peter Galbraith, in Belgrade, Mr. Milan Babić made public statements to the contrary, or changed the very substance of Mr. Galbraith's proposals in such a manner as to make them unacceptable to the Government of Croatia.

Faced with the joint and highly coordinated offensive military activities of the Croatian and Bosnian Serbs, and the growing interference of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Croatia presented the Croatian Serb leaders with a clear choice: to accept immediately the principles of peaceful reintegration or face police and military action aimed at restoring Croatian sovereignty over its occupied territories. In this respect, the President of the Republic of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, appealed to the Serb population in the occupied territories to lay down their arms, and extended an amnesty to the mobilized Serb irregular forces, renewing guarantees for the safety and constitutional rights of the Serb community within Croatia.

In its legitimate police and military action, the Republic of Croatia is willing to cooperate with the international community, as it has done on

numerous occasions, in monitoring and aiding the post-conflict restoration of Croatian authorities, respect for human rights, reconciliation and reconstruction process in the occupied territories.

My Government fully appreciates the concerns of the international community at large about the danger of the spill-over of the conflict throughout the region, and will do its best to prevent it. At this point, it is of the utmost importance for the international community to warn Belgrade to refrain from widening the war.

We also understand and fully appreciate the concerns of the Security Council, especially of the troop-contributing countries, for the safety of United Nations personnel. Croatia will do its best in providing and ensuring the security of these troops under the existing circumstances. We have already informed them about our intentions and will continue to do so. In this regard, my Government considers repositioning of these troops out of the areas of the immediate action, in order to prevent the notorious Serbian practice of taking United Nations personnel as hostages, to be of the utmost importance.

My Government will continue to inform you about developments and to cooperate fully with the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat, the five-nation Contact Group, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in an effort to bring this operation to a quick and successful end and to stabilize the situation as soon as possible.

It is the firm intention of my Government to minimize the civilian casualties and uphold all principles of the international humanitarian law in the course of the operation.

My Government is also doing everything within its power to ensure and protect and safety of the United Nations and UNCRO personnel under the given circumstance.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/648
4 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995 concerning the establishment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

As members of the Security Council are aware, the military component of UNAVEM III is currently composed of personnel from Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Congo, Egypt, France, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Following the usual consultations, I propose that Namibia and the Republic of Korea be added to the list of countries contributing military personnel to UNAVEM III.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

95-23216 (E) 040895 070895

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/649
4 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 1 August 1995 (S/1995/648) concerning additions to the list of Member States contributing military personnel to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They agree with the proposal contained in the letter.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
President of the Security Council

95-23222 (E) 040895 070895

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GENERAL

S/1995/650
3 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 981 (1995)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 981 (1995) of 31 March 1995, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to report as appropriate and not less than every four months on progress towards a peaceful settlement in Croatia and on the situation on the ground, including the ability of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, which is known as UNCRO, to implement its mandate as described in that resolution. The Security Council undertook in this connection to examine without delay any recommendations that the Secretary-General might make in his reports and to adopt appropriate decisions. The present report, in conjunction with my report pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 11 of resolution 994 (1995), of 9 June 1995 (S/1995/467), is intended to assist the Council in its consideration of the continuing mandate of UNCRO.

2. The present report reflects events up to 30 July 1995. Given the high degree of uncertainty concerning current developments in Croatia, which are inextricably linked with those in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is not possible at this time to make a recommendation as to the future of UNCRO. It is therefore my intention to revert to the Security Council shortly on this issue.

II. STRUCTURE OF UNCRO

3. The UNCRO mission is operating on the basis outlined in paragraph 84 of my report (S/1995/222 and Corr. 1 and 2). UNCRO is headed by a civilian Chief of Mission at the assistant secretary-general level, Mr. Byung Suk Min, and has its own military commander, Major-General Eid Kamel Al-Rodan of Jordan. The Chief of Mission is responsible to my Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia for the efficient conduct of all the mission's activities and for ensuring, within his delegated authority, that the tasks of all the components are carried out in accordance with approved mandates and policy guidelines. On behalf of my Special Representative, the Chief of Mission is charged with the responsibility for political negotiations required to implement the mandate of UNCRO and for coordination between the military and civilian components of the mission. The

Chief of Mission reports to my Special Representative, while the military commander is responsible to the Theatre Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Bernard Janvier. As of 20 July 1995, the strength of the military component amounted to 11,059, including 296 United Nations military observers from 21 nations. The headquarters of UNCRO is temporarily located within the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters complex in Zagreb. Its administrative, logistical and public information activities are coordinated at the UNPF headquarters.

III. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

4. Following the events of early May 1995, when the Croatian Army and police took control of those areas of Western Slavonia (Sector West) previously under Serb control, there have been no further large-scale hostilities. However, nearly continuous skirmishes, exchanges of fire, incidents and troop deployments within the zone of separation and an increased number of violations of the 10- and 20-kilometre heavy weapons withdrawal zones have maintained a high level of tension in the three remaining sectors. These actions, by both sides, have eroded the credibility of the cease-fire agreement to the point where neither side appears committed to its key provisions and both sides use it to denigrate each other. As of 30 July 1995, there were 83 reported violations of the zone of separation, 47 on the Krajina Serb side and 36 on the Croatian side. In addition, there were 78 reported violations of the 10- and 20-kilometre zones: 68 by the Krajina Serbs and 10 by the Croatian Army. Violations of the zone have been a consistent feature of both parties' activities.

5. Despite assurances by the Croatian Government that it would not pursue military objectives before the end of the present UNCRO mandate period and in disregard of the statement by the President of the Security Council on 16 June 1995 (S/PRST/1995/30), the combined attack of the Bosnian Croat forces and the Croatian Army, launched on 4 June 1995 in the Dinara mountains area, has continued and has resulted in the seizure and occupation of positions inside areas covered by the cease-fire agreement. It also indicates a possible decision by the Government to use force to reintegrate the Serb Krajina region. The present military situation, coupled with restrictions on freedom of movement constantly imposed by both sides, has prevented UNCRO from taking any significant remedial action and, in some cases, from even monitoring the situation. Peace-keepers have been unable to position themselves between the warring factions and have been prevented from deploying along the international border.

6. Bosnian Croat forces, apparently supported by Croatian Army elements, have also continued their attacks in the Livansko Polje area adjacent to the Croatian border in Bosnia and Herzegovina, capturing Bosansko Grahovo and Glamoc, putting their forces in a position to threaten Knin directly and cutting the main supply route from Knin to Banja Luka. These forces have now moved closer to the international border and established a blocking position near Strmica. Between 25 June and 30 July, approximately 2,861 Croatian army troops as well as vehicles and equipment have been observed crossing into Bosnia and Herzegovina at Kamensko. As a result of this fighting, 12,000 to 14,000 Serb refugees are now moving in the direction of Banja Luka.

7. The Krajina Serbs are redeploying units to block the Bosnian Croat/Croatian advance and have used small arms, mortars, artillery and airstrikes from the Ubdina airfield to attack Croatian positions within Sector South. During one such air attack on 18 June, an UNCRO observation post came under direct attack, fortunately without significant harm to the Kenyan soldiers occupying it. There has also been regular and frequent shelling by both sides of several villages within the area covered by the cease-fire agreement.

8. Simultaneously, frequent and significant Croatian troop movements near the zone of separation in the area of Sibenik and Sinj, and infiltration into the Velebit mountains inside the zone, have contributed to the general climate of hostility. The Krajina Serbs are convinced that Croatia plans an attack against Sector South, and have responded by occupying two villages within the zone of separation, south of Novigrad. Efforts by my Special Representative and by United Nations commanders to defuse the situation by establishing observation posts and border-monitoring posts have been thwarted by the postponement of a meeting scheduled at United Nations initiative between military commanders.

9. Sector North saw relatively little activity except in the area bordering the Bihac pocket. Fighting between the Bosnian Government Fifth Corps and the separatist forces of Mr. Fikret Abdic, supported by Krajina Serb forces, flared up again. The Fifth Corps attacked Krajina Serb-controlled territory in Sector North on both the east and the west sides of the pocket. This generated a strong reaction from the Krajina Serbs, who used armed helicopters for the first time on 16 July 1995 and launched a major counter-offensive on 19 July 1995. The armed helicopters are likely to be part of a newly established Krajina Serb Special Forces Corps, stationed in the Slunj area. The counter-offensive succeeded in restoring the 1994 confrontation line in the north-west and moving the western confrontation line 3 to 5 kilometres eastwards. These operations in the Bihac pocket have caused some 8,000 civilians to abandon their homes to escape the fighting. They have sought refuge in and around the town of Cazin, where they are being assisted by the local authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The extremely serious humanitarian situation in the pocket is the result of both the fighting and the long-standing denial of access to UNHCR convoys by the Krajina Serb authorities in Knin and Mr. Abdic. The Krajina Serbs' obstruction of humanitarian access to Bihac seems in turn to be having repercussions on UNHCR's assistance programme in the UNCRO sectors in Croatia, as the Croatian Government has recently been reluctant to provide clearance for UNHCR convoys to the sectors.

10. There continues to exist a very real possibility that the fighting in and close to the Bihac pocket will spread and intensify. Should this happen, it would further threaten the Krajina Serb supply route running from Banja Luka via Dvor and Glina to Knin. Consequently, more robust action by the Krajina Serbs is likely and this will risk drawing Croatia into the fighting in and around the Bihac pocket. In line with its actions to the west of Sector South, the Croatian Army has conducted a series of exercises west of Sisak and south-west of Karlovac in the immediate proximity of the zone of separation, which has further increased tension and insecurity. For their part, the Krajina Serbs have also been conducting extensive military training, are now completely mobilized in both Sectors North and South and are in a state of martial law.

11. Sector East has remained mainly quiet; however, an apparently minor incident occurred on 24 June 1995 when three Croatians were captured by the Krajina Serbs while working at the garbage site east of Osijek inside the zone of separation. Their work was being conducted in accordance with an agreement that had been in effect for two years to the satisfaction of both sides. After the consequent closing of the site, the Croatian authorities in Osijek began dumping garbage into the Drava river. The Krajina Serbs responded with mortar fire on the outskirts of Osijek. Further escalation by both parties resulted in the deployment of considerable forces in the zone of separation at the Osijek bridgehead, followed by increased levels of firing. This incident demonstrates the volatility of the situation and how an apparently minor incident can quickly escalate. Determined shuttle diplomacy by the Sector Commander temporarily stabilized the incident and face-to-face negotiations are scheduled at the local level. As of 30 July, the situation in the Osijek area remained stable but tense.

12. UNCRO has continued to try to monitor violations of the cease-fire agreement, but is prevented from doing so satisfactorily by the numerous and permanent restrictions on its freedom of movement. Nor have its efforts to deploy along the international border of Croatia received the necessary cooperation of the Krajina Serbs. Although I am unable to report any progress in the establishment of the full border-monitoring regime set out in my report of 18 April 1995 (S/1995/320), it is to be noted that UNCRO at present has 21 checkpoints and observation posts that monitor and report on cross-border military traffic. In addition, military observers are often able to report upon such traffic. Monitoring during the period from 5 to 30 July indicates a regular pattern of movement into and out of Croatia. A total of 7,946 soldiers with 1,212 vehicles were observed moving into Croatia and 8,610 soldiers with 1,049 vehicles left that country. An additional six border control posts remain to be established and my Special Representative recognizes the need to establish them at the earliest opportunity.

13. In addition to organizational changes, both Croatian and Krajina Serb forces are believed to have acquired new and more numerous military equipment and arms. The Croatians have acquired a minimum of 12 Mig-21 aircraft, are able to deploy a minimum of six armed Mi-24 attack helicopters and have displayed a number of new types of small arms and military vehicles. The quantity of locally developed military equipment, indicates a significant increase in Croatian capabilities. The Krajina Serbs have also recently displayed new arms and equipment, including small arms, night observation devices and some re-engineered naval surface-to-surface missiles. Both sides have improved their qualitative and quantitative military capabilities. Several meetings initiated by UNCRO commanders with each of the parties have failed. Neither side has shown any interest or willingness to take the first step in defusing or regularizing the present dangerous and highly unstable situation. Following the setback suffered by the Krajina Serbs in Western Slavonia (Sector West) in early May, a new military commander has been appointed and has declared his intention to professionalize the army and adopt a new military doctrine. A new Special Forces Corps has been established and located where it can intervene quickly in either Sector South or North. Army discipline has improved, which, in turn, has reduced, but not totally eliminated, robbery, hijackings and threats against UNCRO personnel and equipment.

14. Political trends within the area administered by the Krajina Serbs have also remained volatile. Differences have developed between the regional factions in Sector East, where "separatist tendencies" favour joining the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and those in Sectors North and South, who tend to favour a union between the Krajina and Bosnian Serbs. This tendency has been compounded by the Krajina Serbs' inability for several weeks to form a so-called "government of unity". However, they appear to have succeeded, in Topusko on 27 July, in appointing a new government. Given the recent call for fresh elections by the authorities in Sector East, it is possible that disunity amongst the Krajina Serbs will compound the difficulties that UNCRO faces in negotiating the implementation of its mandate.

15. Both UNHCR and UNPF have lodged strong protests with the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in response to reports of the forced mobilization of more than 2,500 Serb refugees who have been sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the Krajina.

The Area of Western Slavonia formerly known as Sector West (Sector West)

16. Some 2,170 Serbs voluntarily left Sector West under Operation Safe Passage during the period from 9 to 30 May 1995. Between 2 June, when the bridge over the Sava river was damaged, and 7 July 1995, UNCRO and representatives of UNHCR assisted a further 130 Serbs to travel to Eastern Slavonia (Sector East) and for 16 to go to Banja Luka via Sector North. Currently, in the former Serb-controlled part of Sector West, there are less than 1,000 Serbs in Pakrac/Gavrinica and about 250 in Okucani, with a further 5,000 or so in the northern part of the Sector. However, reports indicate that a steady trickle of Serb families has been leaving the northern part by their own means, although the precise numbers are unknown.

17. UNHCR and UNCRO are attempting to arrange for the return to Western Slavonia of 84 Serb refugees - 34 of whom are in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and 50 in Banja Luka - who have made known their desire to return. The Croatian authorities have, in principle, approved their return. Approval from the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has been sought, but a reply has yet to be received. The return of even a small number of Serbs would be significant as it would help to restore the confidence of the Serbian community in Sector West and have a positive effect on those who are ambivalent about remaining in Croatia.

18. Of the 1,494 Serbs originally detained by the Croatian authorities after the operation in Sector West in early May, about 130 remain in detention. However, this figure is only an estimate as comprehensive details of the detained have yet to be provided to UNCRO, as have details of the killed or wounded.

19. The Croatian authorities have commenced legal proceedings against Serbs accused of war crimes. On the basis of developments to date, concerns exist as to the specific nature of the charges against the defendants and the extent to which the right to legal counsel is being fully respected. Evidence so far

suggests that the legal process is generally not transparent and that it is subject to political influence.

20. UNCRO, in coordination with humanitarian organizations, including UNHCR, continues to monitor the human rights situation in Sector West. The work of the United Nations Civilian Police has recently been enhanced through increased cooperation with the Croatian police, especially in the southern part of the sector, and improvements such as co-location of United Nations Civilian Police and Croatian police have been agreed at the political level. However, there are some reservations as to how United Nations Civilian Police and the Croatian police will work together in the northern part of the sector.

21. At present, the overall human rights situation is stable but remains fragile. There is no evidence of systematic violations of human rights against the Serb population but there are individual cases of discrimination against, and harassment of, local Serbs, such as lack of access to official documents, denial of property rights, e.g. the return of livestock, and continuing incidents of theft and intimidation. These violations erode the confidence of the community and degrade the status and dignity of the residual Serb population. Meanwhile, UNCRO has continued to support the process of confidence-building and rehabilitation promoted by the Croatian Government, though in some instances it has been difficult to identify concrete evidence of the implementation of the Croatian Government's policy. For example, the provision of funds to Serbs for reconstruction has been relatively slow and many Serbs will not be able to start reconstruction this year. Some actions of the Croatian authorities fail to take sufficient account of the fears of the Serb community. For instance, Croatian officials have recently started registering members of the Serb population in a way that creates the fear that Serb males of military age will be mobilized. These factors, together with continuing reports of intimidation and limited economic opportunities, have produced anxiety and uncertainty, which could generate a new exodus of Serbs.

Prevlaka peninsula

22. The Prevlaka peninsula remains an area of strategic interest to both Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Since the meeting of the Joint Inter-State Commission, convened by my Special Representative on 25 April 1995, the area has remained relatively stable, particularly as a result of Croatia ceasing the construction of defence works in the demilitarized zone. Indications of increased readiness to cooperate, for instance in the parties' local bilateral water negotiations, are most welcome. However, the parties' differing interpretations of the established United Nations security modalities remain a potentially destabilizing factor. Furthermore, restrictions of movement upon United Nations military observers, by both parties but particularly the Republic of Montenegro, within the 5-kilometre demilitarized zone, inhibit investigations of incidents and violations. I have asked my Special Representative, in conjunction with the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, to continue to mediate between the parties and seek consensus on the modalities envisaged under Security Council resolutions 779 (1992) and 981 (1995).

IV. OBSERVATIONS

23. As stated in paragraph 2 above, I intend to revert shortly to the Security Council with my observations on the foregoing, together with recommendations on the future of UNCRO.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/651
4 August 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a declaration dated 4 August 1995 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the resumption of hostilities in Croatia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Arturo LACLAUSTRA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

95-23236 (E) 040895 040895 050895

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Annex

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration dated 4 August 1995 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the resumption of hostilities in Croatia

The European Union is deeply concerned about the resumption of hostilities in Croatia and asks that an immediate end be put to military operations.

The European Union expresses its most profound concern about the offensive of the Croatian armed forces in the Krajinas, which violates the United Nations Security Council resolutions, has prevented further progress in the political negotiations that the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia has convened in Geneva and risks extending the conflict.

The Union requests free access to the area for international organizations, without any obstacles, so that they can fulfil their missions with adequate security conditions.

Bearing in mind the decisions of the Council of 10 April and 12 June 1995 as well as the 27 June 1995 Cannes European Council warning, the Union has decided to suspend immediately negotiations on a trade and cooperation agreement with Croatia, as well as to suspend the implementation of the PHARE programme for Croatia.

The European Union condemns the Krajina Serb involvement in the attacks on the Bihac pocket, which have contributed to a dramatic worsening of the situation.

The Union calls on Belgrade to avoid participation in current operations.

The Union reiterates its conviction that dialogue and negotiation are the only ways of finding a just and lasting solution to the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and calls again on all parties to put an end to hostilities, to avoid the suffering of the civilian population and to resume the peace negotiations on the basis of the Z-4 plan. The Union strongly appeals to all parties to abide strictly by all rules of international humanitarian law laid down in the Geneva Conventions and strongly condemns the military actions that have already led to death and injuries of innocent civilians and United Nations Blue Helmets.

UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/953
S/1995/652
4 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda items 38, 57, 62, 70,
88 (a) and 92
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 3 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint communiqué of the twenty-eighth ASEAN ministerial meeting, which was held in Brunei Darussalam on 29 and 30 July 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 38, 57, 62, 70, 88 (a) and 92, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pengiran ABDUL MOMIN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Joint Communiqué of the Twenty-Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 29 and 30 July 1995

1. The Twenty-Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan from 29 to 30 July 1995.

2. The Foreign Ministers welcomed Viet Nam as the seventh member of ASEAN. They also welcomed the accession of Cambodia to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia. Cambodia was also granted observer status. They believed that these events marked a historic step towards building a South-East Asian community and looked forward to the future when all South-East Asian nations become members of ASEAN. The Ministers called for increased cooperation with Cambodia and Laos to assist them in preparing for their eventual membership in ASEAN.

3. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the decision by Myanmar to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia.

Political and security cooperation

4. Considering the important role of ASEAN in maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in this region as well as in enhancing cooperation in the wider Asia-Pacific, the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with others, particularly ASEAN's Dialogue and Consultative Partners, and Observers. In reviewing the developments of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) since its inauguration in Bangkok last year, the Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress made thus far. In this regard, they reaffirmed that the ASEAN Concept Paper on the ARF has contributed significantly towards moving the ARF process forward at a pace comfortable to all participants. They re-emphasized ASEAN's role as the primary driving force of the ARF which is a high-level consultative forum to facilitate open dialogue and discussions on political and security issues of common interest and concern in the Asia-Pacific region. They also stressed the importance of building confidence among ARF participants so as to develop a more predictable and constructive pattern of behaviour. This, they felt, would ensure lasting peace, stability, and prosperity for the region and its people. They looked forward to a successful second ARF meeting.

5. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress made by ASEAN in the dialogue and consultation process on political and security issues which now included the ASEAN China Senior Officials Consultation (ASEAN-China SOM) and the ASEAN-European Union Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN-EU SOM). The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to Canada for the initiative of hosting the ASEAN-Canada consultation in May 1995, in order for ASEAN's view to be made known to the G-7 Meeting in Halifax. The Ministers also expressed their satisfaction over the results of these consultations. The Ministers agreed that such meetings served to strengthen ASEAN's cooperative relations with various countries and partners.

6. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of ASEAN's "Programme of action on ZOPFAN". The Ministers also noted the positive progress in solving the legal and technical aspects of the draft Treaty on South-East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ). They further noted similar progress in deciding on the most appropriate instrument by which countries outside the region would be able to associate themselves with the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the association of non-South-East Asian countries to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation would enhance peace and stability of the region.

7. The Foreign Ministers commended the good cooperative relations developed between ASEAN and non-governmental bodies such as the ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) and the Council for Security and Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). They agreed that these bodies had provided useful ideas and proposals for political and security cooperation in the region.

International and regional issues

8. The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the current regional and international situation. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the continuing positive developments in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific. In this regard, they stressed the importance of a stable relationship among the major Powers. The Ministers also expressed the hope that countries in the region would continue to work together to maintain security and stability to ensure rapid economic growth and progress.

9. The Foreign Ministers expressed their concern over recent events in the South China Sea. They encouraged all parties concerned to reaffirm their commitment to the principles contained in the 1992 ASEAN Declaration of the South China Sea, which urges all claimants to resolve their differences by peaceful means and to exercise self-restraint. They also called on them to refrain from taking actions that could destabilize the region, including possibly undermining the freedom of navigation and aviation in the affected areas. They also encouraged the claimants to address the issue in various bilateral and multilateral forums. In this regard, they reiterated the significance of promoting confidence-building measures (CBMs) and mutually beneficial cooperative ventures in the ongoing Informal Workshop Series on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea initiated by Indonesia.

10. The Foreign Ministers discussed the situation in the Korean Peninsula. They welcomed the positive outcome of the talks held in Kuala Lumpur between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and expressed the hope that this would lead to the full implementation of the Agreed Framework reached in Geneva. The Ministers reiterated their belief that resuming the dialogue between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea was extremely important for peace and security in the Korean Peninsula. They expressed the hope that these developments would contribute to the improvement of the situation.

11. The Foreign Ministers expressed grave concern over the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and issued a statement on the subject.

12. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the progress made in the Middle East peace process, in particular the implementation of the PLO-Israeli Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 1993. The Ministers stressed the importance of continuing the discussions between the Palestinians and Israelis to reach an agreement on the details of the withdrawal of Israeli soldiers from the West Bank. They also welcomed the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel and the ongoing discussions between Syria and Israel and believed that these would contribute to a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem.

13. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful outcome of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Bandung from 25 to 27 April 1995. They supported in particular the NAM Ministers' pledge to do their utmost to strengthen South-South cooperation with a view to achieving economic security and collective self-reliance. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction the commemoration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference held in Bandung on 24 April 1995 and reiterated their conviction that the objectives enunciated in the Final Communiqué of the Conference continue to be valid.

14. The Foreign Ministers emphasized the importance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in promoting international peace and security. Bearing in mind the objectives of general and complete disarmament, the Foreign Ministers noted the outcome of the recent 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT and attached particular importance to the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones by the year 2000. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers deplored the resumption or planned resumption of nuclear tests in the Asia-Pacific in view of the commitment of all State Parties to the NPT to exert utmost restraint on nuclear-weapons testing and to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. They also called on all nuclear-weapon States to desist from testing nuclear devices.

15. In view of the United Nations important role and contribution to development in the last 50 years, the Foreign Ministers emphasized the need for ensuring that the United Nations remain at the centre of efforts to enhance international economic cooperation for development. They attached great importance to the elaboration of an Agenda for Development as the basis for restoring the centrality of development in the work of the United Nations and in addressing the needs and priorities of developing countries. Towards this end, and in order to reinforce the development role of the United Nations, the Ministers expressed support for the position of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. The United Nations organizations which promote and enhance international economic cooperation for sustained economic growth and sustainable development on a global basis including UNCTAD and UNIDO, should be strengthened. The Ministers strongly felt that the mandate of the United Nations in the field of development should be clearly emphasized in all attempts to reform, revitalize and strengthen the world Organization, especially in conjunction with the observance of its fiftieth foundation anniversary this year.

16. The Foreign Ministers noted with appreciation all efforts that have been undertaken by the international community within the framework of the

Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) of 1989. The Foreign Ministers expressed serious concern over recent developments which affected the implementation and successful conclusion of the CPA. They urged all resettlement countries to weigh carefully the implications of adopted proposed legislation which has already generated false hopes of resettlement directly from the camps in the first asylum countries. They reiterated their commitment to the objectives of the CPA which remained the most realistic option to resolve the problem of Indo-Chinese refugees. They called on all parties to the CPA to remain fully committed to the implementation of the relevant Memoranda of Understanding and the decisions of the Fifth and Sixth Steering Committee Meetings with the view to bringing it to a conclusion by the target date of the end of 1995. They called upon the donor community to continue to provide adequate resources to the UNHCR to complete its operations.

Fifth ASEAN Summit

17. The Foreign Ministers looked forward to the Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government to be held in Thailand on 14-15 December 1995. The heads of Government will review developments and progress in ASEAN since the last Summit in Singapore in 1992. The Fifth Summit will chart ASEAN's future direction towards intensifying political, economic and functional cooperation to make ASEAN an even more cohesive and dynamic regional grouping. The Foreign Ministers also requested Thailand as the host country to invite the heads of Government of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to a meeting with the ASEAN Heads of Government during the Summit.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

18. The Foreign Ministers noted that the leaders of Asia and Europe welcomed the holding of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) scheduled for early 1996 in Thailand. They agreed that the Meeting would serve as a means of establishing strong links between Asia and Europe at the highest level.

International economic issues

19. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the ratification of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round by all member countries. They noted Viet Nam's application for WTO membership and expressed the hope that Viet Nam would soon be admitted. They urged the timely access of major trading countries and economies to the WTO and called on all signatories to implement their Uruguay Round commitments in a faithful and timely manner. They requested members to reaffirm their commitment to the principle of free trade by liberalizing their markets further and continuing with their efforts in bringing down trade barriers in accordance with their commitments and the provisions of the Uruguay Round agreements. Recognizing that trade would become more competitive as a result of the Uruguay Round, the Ministers emphasized the need for member countries to keep pace with world market developments by conducting improvements in production, quality control, product innovation, distribution, financing and technology.

20. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the appointment of Singapore as the Chairman of the General Council of the WTO, and Thailand as the Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture of the WTO, and that the First

WTO Ministerial Conference will be held in Singapore. They noted that these are manifestations of the international recognition of the important role played by ASEAN in promoting global trade liberalization.

21. The Foreign Ministers requested the International Monetary Fund to monitor international currency movements more closely in order to avoid a financial crisis similar to that of Mexico's. They cautioned that the continuing imbalances in the international currency markets might seriously affect financial flows to the region and might have adverse consequences for countries with large foreign debt obligations. The Foreign Ministers agreed on the need for enhanced cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO to further strengthen the global economic system.

22. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their stand, as underlined by the ASEAN Labour Ministers during their informal meeting at Chiang Mai in April 1995, to oppose any attempt to link labour standards with international trade and to use labour standards to interfere in the internal affairs of developing countries. They welcomed the recent position adopted by the ILO Governing Body's Working Party to suspend any further discussion of the link between international trade and social standards. The Foreign Ministers renewed their call on the ILO to undertake a thorough review of labour standards, some of which are not relevant to the economic and labour environment of the developing countries on the road to industrialization.

23. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers noted the decisions of the Halifax Summit. Whilst recognizing that the prevention of financial crisis is the preferred course of action, the Foreign Ministers welcomed the Summit's decision to create an emergency fund to defuse future Mexico-type financial crises. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the Summit's call for a comprehensive approach by lending institutions to help the poorest countries with large debt burdens. At the same time, the Foreign Ministers expressed concern that no stronger actions were taken for coordinating macroeconomic policies among the G-7 countries to manage the sharp currency fluctuations in the world's foreign exchange markets.

ASEAN Free Trade Area

24. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the implementation of AFTA. They expressed their full support for the reduction of the time-frame in the implementation of AFTA from 15 to 10 years ending in 2003 and noted that member countries will begin to implement the new tariff reduction schedules by 1 January 1996. The Ministers also took note of the inclusion of the products in the Temporary Exclusion List which is currently being worked by member countries with the list for the first instalment being finalized by the Seventh AFTA Council in September 1995.

25. The Ministers also called upon member countries to accelerate harmonization of customs procedures, tariff nomenclature and standards and to intensify their efforts to remove non-tariff barriers in order to further accelerate growth in intra-ASEAN trade. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the decision to include unprocessed agriculture products in the CEPT Scheme and called upon member countries to intensify their efforts to realize it, taking into account the level of development of the respective countries. They however expressed

the hope that member countries should make all efforts in ensuring that the Temporary Exclusion List and the Sensitive List are kept to a minimum. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction the establishment of the AFTA Unit and the National AFTA Units in the respective member countries which will facilitate greater private sector participation in the AFTA process.

26. They welcomed the initiation of consultations between ASEAN and Australia and New Zealand to discuss possible linkages between AFTA and the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA) with a view to enhancing economic interaction between the two regions.

Other areas of economic cooperation

27. In view of the increasing competitiveness of the world's economy and the rapid globalization of trade, the Foreign Ministers supported efforts of the Economic Ministers to expand economic cooperation in other areas such as services, intellectual property and investment. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to look into new activities and/or schemes to accelerate industrial cooperation in the region with emphasis on technology-based industries and physical infrastructure investments. In this regard, they noted that a Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Services and ASEAN Framework on Intellectual Property Cooperation are being formulated. The Foreign Ministers agreed that ASEAN cooperation in services would entail commitments on an ASEAN preferential basis aimed at realizing a free trade area in services in the long run. They also supported efforts to explore the possibility of setting up an ASEAN patent and trademark system.

28. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the initiatives taken by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry to sign the MOU on ASEAN Cooperation and Joint Approaches in Agriculture and Forest Products Promotion Scheme in August 1994. The MOU aims at sustaining the expansion of ASEAN agriculture and forest products and at enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors.

East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC)

29. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to an early realization of the EAEC. They recognized the usefulness of more focused discussions on specific economic and development issues, particularly on matters that will contribute to greater development of the East Asia region.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

30. The Foreign Ministers noted that APEC had made significant progress towards its long-term goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific regions as embodied in the Bogor Declaration. The Ministers emphasized the need for APEC to proceed in a manner consistent with the principles of the GATT/WTO. Noting the importance of the Kuching consensus and the considerable progress made by APEC since that consensus, the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that ASEAN should continue to play a central role in APEC. The Foreign Ministers underscored the importance of economic and technical cooperation in the Bogor Declaration and in this context welcomed Japan's initiative on "Partners for Progress". The Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that the APEC Economic

Leaders Meeting in Osaka and the Seventh APEC Ministerial Meeting to be hosted by Japan in November 1995 would carry forward the APEC process.

Functional cooperation

31. The Foreign Ministers agreed that, as part of the efforts to achieve greater social and economic progress in the region and to enable ASEAN to face the challenges of the twenty-first century, ASEAN functional cooperation should be further strengthened and intensified.

32. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that cooperation in science and technology, environment, culture and information, social development, and drugs and narcotics control had further intensified and increased in focus with the completion of Plans of Action for each of the five functional areas and the implementation of a number of initial activities. They also expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the preparation of the ASEAN Regional Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS.

33. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Management of Transboundary Pollution to adopt the ASEAN Cooperation Plan on Transboundary Pollution with a view to managing the increasing periodicity and worsening impact of transboundary pollution in the region.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

34. The Foreign Ministers noted that the Dialogue Process has acquired greater importance in promoting a better understanding of issues brought about by rapid changes in the world environment. The Ministers expressed the hope that although the Dialogues shall continue to serve as a forum for discussing divergent interests, it could place more emphasis on shared interests and objectives in addressing global challenges. The Ministers recognized that the inaugural ASEAN-EU SOM, held in Singapore from 2 to 4 May 1995, marked an important step in this direction and paved the way for the deepening of mutual understanding and economic cooperation between the European Union and ASEAN.

35. The Foreign Ministers recognized the growing significance of economic cooperation with the Dialogue Partners. They reiterated their request for the Dialogue Partners to be more forthcoming in their response to ASEAN's concerns on trade, investment and market access issues. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the Dialogue Partners in the implementation of various development projects. They noted that development cooperation projects are increasingly directed at promoting economic and commercial objectives.

Cooperation with Non-Dialogue Partners

36. The Foreign Ministers noted that ASEAN cooperation with India in the fields of trade, investment, science and technology and tourism has made progress. Modalities for implementing ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Relations have been

initiated. The Ministers noted the outcome of the First ASEAN-China Joint Science and Technology Meeting held in Brunei Darussalam in March 1995. The Foreign Ministers noted the progress in ASEAN-Russia relations and welcomed efforts being made to identify areas of mutual interest in order to enhance relations. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the expansion of ASEAN's relations with other regional organizations and noted the efforts undertaken by the ASEAN secretariat in this regard. The Foreign Ministers also noted that the ASEAN secretariat is undertaking a review of the criteria and priorities for ASEAN's external relations.